



Australian Bureau of Statistics

1104.0 - CURF Microdata News, Aug 2010

Latest ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 27/08/2010

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IN THIS ISSUE

There have been some important CURFs released, with the Multipurpose Household Survey, 2008-09 Expanded CURF and the Education and Training Basic and Expanded, 2009 CURF released in July. The Education and Training CURF has had strong interest from users so far. Please see the article below for further information about these CURFs as well as other upcoming CURFs.

The ABS continues to look for ways to improve access to microdata and has set up a project to look at future services. We will be seeking feedback from a sample of data users as and we'll keep you informed in relation to developments in future Newsletters.

The Microdata Access Strategies Section will have a stand at NatStats 2010 conference at Darling Harbour Sydney, so please come and see us if you are going to be there.

Todd Sweeting
Acting Director
ABS Microdata Access Strategies

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CURF RELEASES

This part of the CURF News describes recent and forthcoming CURF releases. You can also keep up to date with CURF releases by subscribing to our free Email Notification Service or the ABS RSS Feed. To apply for access to any of the following please use the MiCRO online CURF application system web page.

Microdata: Multipurpose Household Survey, Expanded CURF, Australia 2008-09 (cat. no. 4100.0.55.001) **Released 12/07/2010**

Formerly 4100.0.5.001 - Multi-Purpose Household Survey, Australia, Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File, 2008-09.

This Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) from the 2008-2009 Multipurpose Household Survey provides statistics on four topics: Crime Victimisation, Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Retirement and Retirement Intentions and Household Use of Information Technology. The CURF also contains other socio-demographic information such as educational qualifications, occupation and industry of current job and personal and household income.

Users are able to tabulate, manipulate and analyse data to their individual specifications. Steps to confidentialise the dataset are taken to ensure integrity of data, optimise its content and maintain confidentiality of respondents. They include removing any information that might uniquely identify an individual, reducing the level of detail for some items and collapsing some categories.

The Expanded CURF is only available through the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) and the ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL). A technical manual explaining data content, technical details and conditions of use is available through Technical Manual: Multipurpose Household Survey, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2008-09 (cat. no 4100.0)

For information on applying for access to ABS CURFs, see the CURF Microdata Entry Page on the ABS website.

Microdata: Education and Training, Basic CURF, Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 6278.0.55.002) **Released 30/07/2010**

This Basic CURF provides detailed information from the 2009 Survey of Education and Training. As well as general demographic data, it contains a range of data items relating to educational and learning activity in Australia covering topics such as the level and field of educational attainment, participation in various types of education and training, details of training courses completed, information about access and barriers to education and training, and employment outcomes from educational activity.

The CURF enables users to tabulate, manipulate and analyse data to their individual specifications. Steps to confidentialise the data have been taken that ensures confidentiality of respondents while at the same time maintaining the integrity of the data and optimising its content. This includes removing any information that might uniquely identify an individual and reducing the level of detail for some data items.

The Basic CURF is available either on CD-ROM or through the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) or ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL). The publication, Technical Manual: Survey of Education and Training, Basic and Expanded CURFs, Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 6278.0.55.001), explains the data content, technical details and conditions of use and should be used in conjunction with this CURF. An Excel spreadsheet listing all the data items available on the Basic CURF accompanies the Technical Manual.

Microdata: Education and Training, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 6278.0.55.004) **Released 30/07/2010**

This Expanded CURF provides detailed information from the 2009 Survey of Education and Training. As well as general demographic data, it contains a range of data items relating to educational and learning activity in Australia covering topics such as the level and field of educational attainment, participation in various types of education and training, details of training courses completed, information about access and barriers to education and training, and employment outcomes from educational activity.

The CURF enables users to tabulate, manipulate and analyse data to their individual specifications. Steps to confidentialise the data have been taken that ensures confidentiality of respondents while at the same time maintaining the integrity of the data and optimising its content. This includes removing any information that might uniquely identify an individual and reducing the level of detail for some data items.

The Expanded CURF is accessible through the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) or ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL). The publication, Technical Manual: Survey of Education and Training, Basic and Expanded CURFs, Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 6278.0.55.001), explains the data content, technical details and conditions of use and should be used in conjunction with this CURF. An Excel spreadsheet listing all the data items available on the Expanded CURF accompanies the Technical Manual.

Microdata: Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Basic and Expanded CURF, Australia, Nov 2010 (cat. no. 6202.0.30.004) **Expected release: 24 November 2010**

The Basic and Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) contains data from both the monthly Labour Force Survey and the related Labour Mobility supplementary survey.

The Labour Mobility data is in relation to people aged 15 years and over who had worked at some time during the year ending February 2010. In addition to the standard labour force data items, the Labour Mobility data provides details of changes in jobs between employers/businesses for up to three jobs and, for those people who have been with their employer/business for the last 12 months, the changes in their job including promotion, transfer, changes in occupation and usual hours worked. Estimates can be cross-classified by demographics such as state, sex, age, marital status and country of birth, as well as labour force characteristics.

The Basic CURF is available on CD-ROM and users are able to tabulate, manipulate and analyse data to their individual specifications.

The EXPANDED CURF is available via RADL only. The RADL is accessible for authorised users via the ABS web site and enables the ABS to make more detailed microdata available than on CD-ROM, while still maintaining the confidentiality of ABS data providers.

Steps to confidentialise the dataset are taken to ensure the integrity of data, optimise its content and maintain confidentiality of respondents. They include removing any information that might uniquely identify an individual, reducing the level of detail for some items and collapsing some categories.

Microdata: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, Expanded CURF, Reissue (cat. no. 4720.0.55.001) **Expected release: 1 September 2010**

This release includes two corrections to income data. Decile boundaries used to construct Gross Weekly Income In Deciles have been corrected and a correction has also been applied to the income range for Equivalised Household Income.

Microdata from the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) is available in the form of two Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs).

The CURFs contain confidentialised data about each selected person and the household to which they belong. Data are available for the following topics: language and culture, social capital, life experiences, health, education, work, income and finances, housing and mobility, transport, information technology, and safety, crime and justice.

The files are only available through the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) to clients who have signed a Deed of Undertaking regarding use of the information for statistical purposes.

Information about the data content, technical details and conditions of use is provided in the 2008 NATSISS Users' Guide (cat. no. 4720.0).

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WEBSITE OUTAGE

The ABS would like to advise that maintenance work will be conducted on Saturday 4 September causing an outage on all ABS data services (this includes RADL), The outage is expected to be from 5am to 12pm.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

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NatStats 2010 Conference

15-17 September 2010 Darling Harbour Sydney

Register Now!!!

NatStats 2010 will be held from 15-17 September 2010 at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour.

In line with the overall themes for the conference, "Measuring what counts: economic development, wellbeing and progress in 21st century Australia", conference speakers will explore drivers of economic and related social change that are shaping Australia's progress, identify the challenges facing Australia in the coming decades, and will highlight the importance of policies and strategies in understanding and responding to these challenges. The role that a statistical framework will play in enabling a greater understanding of these challenges, in forming research and public debate, and in helping to develop practical responses, will also be discussed.

As a participant in the NatStats 2010 Conference, you will contribute to more effective use of better, broader and more comparable information; better monitoring of government services, improved access and use of data by the wider community, and reduced overall costs of government information services.

NatStats 2010 Keynote Speakers include Dr Ken Henry AC, Secretary, Commonwealth Treasury, the Hon Dr Geoff Gallop AC, Director, Graduate School of Government, University of Sydney, Ms Martine Durand, Chief Statistician and Director, OECD Statistics Directorate, and Mr Phil Lowe, Assistant Governor (Economic), Reserve Bank of Australia.

Other NatStats 2010 speakers include: Ms Jane Halton PSM, Secretary, Department of Health and Ageing, Mr Paul McClinton AO, Chairman, COAG Reform Council, Mr Geoff Allen, Chairman, Australian Statistics Advisory Council, Auditor-General, Mr Peter Achterstraat, Auditor-General (NSW) and Ms Mary Doherty, General Manager, Sanctuary Energy.

For a full list of confirmed speakers, program, registration information, please visit www.nss.gov.au/natstats2010 or email natstats@nss.gov.au

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RECENT CHANGES TO MICRODATA TITLES AND CATALOGUE NUMBERS

Recently there have been a number of changes made to improve the visibility and discoverability of Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) on the ABS website. The changes will assist users to locate and identify the CURFs and their associated Technical Manuals, Data Item Lists and Information Papers.

What has changed?

There is now a direct link to the CURF Microdata Entry Page via the 'Discover CURF Microdata' logo on the right hand side of the ABS home page.

'Microdata' has been added to the title on all CURF releases which enables users to locate CURFs from all ABS pages including search results retrieved via the Google search engine, for example, Microdata: Income and Housing, Basic and Expanded CURF, Australia, 2007-08

Some changes were made to product catalogue numbers to merge related products together. Where this has happened notes have been attached to the 'About this release page'. Searches on the old catalogue numbers can be conducted using the Google search engine and results should direct users to the correct product.

CURF product information can now be searched separately to other ABS statistical information via the 'Statistics' page on the ABS website. A search is possible by catalogue number, release date or topic.

Currently we do not recommend using the by title view and would encourage all users to continue using the List of Available CURFs page.

We believe these changes will help you to locate CURF products with a new level of ease, so please have a look!

Feedback is welcome on <microdata.access@abs.gov.au>.

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CURFs OF INTEREST

Have you ever wondered what other CURFs could enhance the information you're gathering? For instance if you have access to the National Health Survey, Basic and Expanded CURF, 2007-08 you could also be interested in:

- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, Expanded CURF, 2008.
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, Expanded CURF, 2004-05.
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, Basic CURF, 1994.
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, Expanded CURF, 1994.
- National Nutrition Survey Basic CURF, 1995.
- National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing, Basic and Expanded CURF, 2007.
- Mental Health and Wellbeing of Adults, Basic CURF, Western Australia, 1997.

Or have you got access to Business Longitudinal Database, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07? Then you may then be interested in:

- Business Longitudinal Survey, Basic CURF, Australia, 1994-95 - 1997-98.
- Innovation in Australian Business, Expanded CURF, 2003.

And if you are using the Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Basic and Expanded CURF, Australia, 2008, you might be wanting to use:

- Labour Force Survey and Forms of Employment Survey, Basic and Expanded CURF, Australia, Nov 2008.
- Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Expanded CURF, Australia, Nov 2007.
- Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade union Membership Survey, Basic and Expanded CURF, Australia, Aug 2008.
- Labour Mobility, Basic CURF, Australia.

We encourage you to have a look at our List of Available CURFs you'll be sure to find other CURFs that will improve the quality of your data.

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CURF Microdata News is a quarterly newsletter created by the Microdata Access Strategies Section at the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

CURF Microdata News is aimed at informing new and current Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) Microdata users about issues and developments in the access to, and use of, CURF Microdata. The newsletter periodically covers topics such as available and forthcoming microdata releases, terms and conditions of access, responsible access to microdata and best practice tips, pricing, microdata research outputs, frequently asked questions, and information about applying for ABS CURF microdata.

Interested readers are also invited to visit the CURF Microdata pages on the ABS web site for relevant up-to-date information about each of these matters.

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